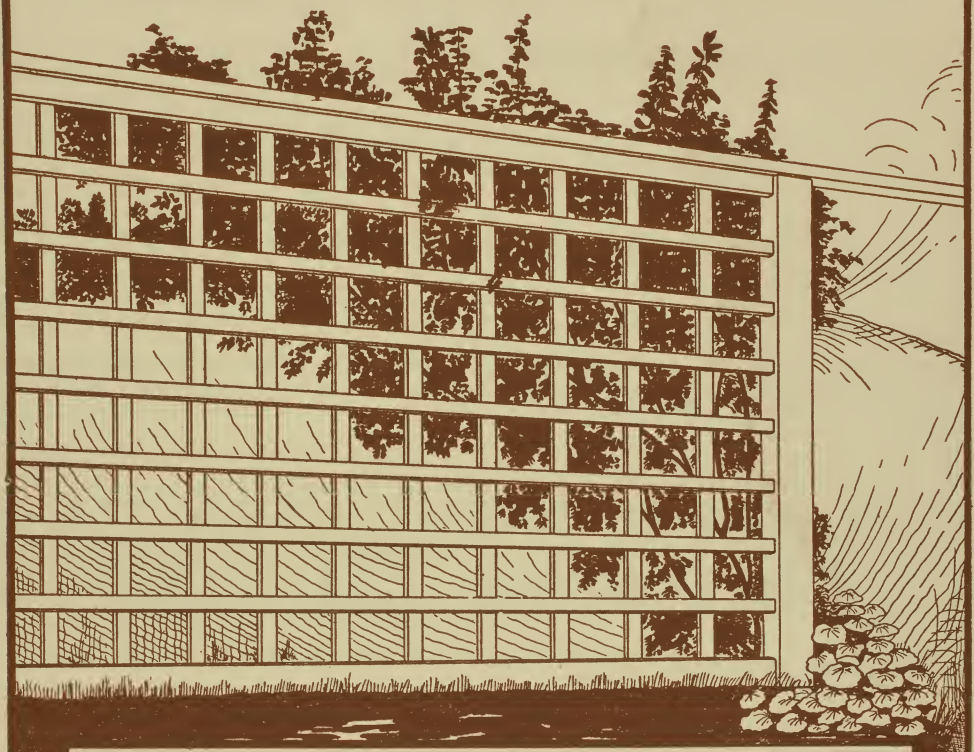
California Garden



IN THIS NUMBER

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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EARLY CALIFORNIA TREES AND FLOWERS

Kate S. Williams.

In looking into this matter, one must go far into the past and search the early history of the state. We find olive trees, pear trees, even grape vines, planted fifty years before the advent of the Anglo-Saxon. One questions, whence came they, and who brought them? Some of the early writers have collected and preserved data which are very truthful, and which carry us back into the past nearly 200 years. Much of this research is due to Wickson, made famous in his "California Fruits". Le Long, Hittell and Bancroft and other early publications;, they are all reliable authority.

In 1701 Salvaterra is believed to have brought seed from the south (Mexico) vegetables, fruit, flower seed and other plants, and with them founded a garden at Lorentoin, Baja California. These not succeeding very well—we next hear of Father Ugarte, a Jesuit priest, crossing over the mountains and restoring the Mission of Vigge Biaundo, which had been destroyed by Indians. Here both climate and soil were more suited to planting, and the Father inaugurated a system of irrigating ditches and planted extensively of vines and fruits, etc.

In 1728 Father Luyando, another Jesuit priest, established the more northern Mission of San Ignacio, Baja California, of which, in 1759, it is written: "Exotic plants even in that barren land did well, and others, native to the country, throve under his care". Accounts have been handed down of sailors, who wandered inland, found orchards and vineyards bearing with flowers blooming at many of the farms in the little valleys. These orchards and flowers all having their origin at the missions. Bancroft says that two or three date palms were planted at nearly every southern mission in honor of St. Francis, and as symbols of the Holy Land. Father Junipero planted palm trees in 1780 at San Juan Capistrano, which were the native Fan Palm, Washingtonia filifera, found growing in sheltered localities in San Diego and San Bernardino counties, also Baja California...

In 1769 the Franciscans and Dominicans together under Junipero Serra assumed control of the missions having supplanted the Jesuits. More energy and enterprise marked this expedition, which, under Don Jose de Galvez, the secular head, and representative of the King of Spain, established new settlements and brought with him large quantities of fruit and other seeds, which were planted and from which many orchards and gardens have originated. In many of the vessels sent from Spain, manifests were found showing that garden and orchard seed were part of the cargo. These consignments no doubt stamped the type of fruit and flowers as being all of Spanish strain which even to this time shows a marked effect in the older orchards and amongst the earlier mission flowers. For in all the twenty-one missions, which were forty miles apart, plantings still show the stamp of the mother country, Spain.

The missions at this time, 1769 up to 1833, were very rich and powerful institutions and the distributing point for most of the trees, fruit and flowers planted south of the Monterey Mission, or on the grants given to favored scions of nobility, or favorites of the Spanish crown. Many of the native shrubs and flowers were used. The Toyon or Chrismas berry, the lovely Matiliga poppy, the fragrant elder and cassia, many beautiful cactus and aloes were found with their droll shapes and wonderful blooms.

During this time the missons flourished and became very wealthy establishments. The Spanish grandees were accordingly wealthy, but an evil day fell upon them all, with the secularization of the missions in 1833, everything seemed to go into the discard, missions fell useless, priests were recalled, agricultural pursuits were abandoned, the only calling in which much interest was taken was cattle raising.

The various inventories of gradual abandonment of field work—broken down fences, useless plows, etc., fill the record from 1834 to 1846. The Mexican War broke out in 1846 and from then on the Americans had the ascendency.

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HOW ABOUT
THE
WATER
LILY
POOL?

February is high time to think about that Water Lily Pool.

They will be showing above the surface soon and any cleaning or fresh soil needed should be attended to. Try dusting the boxes with bone meal and working it in if you care for fine flowers.

Our new catalogue is ready and orders are filled in the order they arrive.

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Wm. B. Ide brought the first fruit trees, and presumably smaller shrubbery and flowers, from the eastern states to California, coming from New York via Panama in the fall of 1850, although it is conceded some of the "Covered Wagon" folks came across the plains, may have brought a few living specimens of small shrubs and flowers before that time.

The discovery of gold in 1848 attracted for a time the undivided attention of nearly everybody, but it was not long before a spirit of thrift begun to assert itself in caring for vineyards, orchards and flowers, especially so, as many American men were bringing their families from the east and where women go, flowers and fruit go also. A glimpse at some of the pioneer measures may be interesting, although for the most part their main stock was fruit and vines.

In 1854 Mr. Sanford located a nursery at Shell Mound, on the site of Shell Mound Park, near Berkeley. Incidentally I may mention our respective fathers on both sides of our family secured their first planting stock of fruits, vines and flowers from this Mr. Sanford.

Our planting was at Clear Lake, Lake County, California, while I. B. Williams, Sr., one of Fremont's aides and scouts, planted the first orchard and home garden at Pajero, now Watsonville. F. A. Miller, a florist and nurseryman of San Francisco, who in 1868 organized the first Horticultural Society, and who for years carried on the "Horticulturist", was an active member who did much to advance the idea of beautifying his adopted state.

Henry Sontag was another pioneer nurseryman who had a nursery in San Francisco, making a specialty of collecting native seed (California) for European and eastern firms. He was the one who devoted a large part of his time to the importing and cultivation of roses and camelias.

W. C. Walker, also of San Francisco, in 1858 showed 264 varieties of plants in pots, at the third annual Horticultural Society's exhibition. Many more prominent men who have long since passed, have contributed to our wonderful treasures of fruit and vine and flower store. In a way, they were as noteworthy as the zealous priests who hewed the way through a barren rocky land, to sow the seeds of their illuminating faith and works for a future posterity.

An intense love for the Golden State was manifest in these sturdy pioneers, and we can but venerate those wonderful characters who have done so much to beautify our land and homes, be he priest or layman.

I shall give only a small list of plants, since one of the "Garden" writers has al-

[Con'd in February]

NOTES By K. O. SESSIONS

The winter-blooming white Genista monosperma, called "Bridal Veil Genista", is such a success in San Diego that it should be more generally planted. The specimen plant next to the lath house, in the garden of Mrs. Edith Williams on Sunset Boulevard, corner of Arguella, is well worth observing. The plant is sensitive to the cold, but has not been harmed this winter with the local frosts. Its individual, gray, thread-like foliage, and its fragrant white flowers, like a fringe upon its slender branches, make it artistic decorative material, and already it is being used in some of the local florists' shops.

Genista Racemosa, a low shrub with brilliant yellow blooms in fine spikes, is beginning to bud and within two months will be very attractive. It is also very fragrant, and is useful for a florist's flower. Mrs. N. E. Brown, Palmetto and Arbor Drive, has an excellent hedge of it.

The Pasadena Floral Parade, January 1, 1925, was very excellent and was said to be better than the one of 1924. The one flower used in greatest quantity and very effectively was the winter-blooming heather, Erica Melanthera, but it was not in as full bloom as it is now and has been in San Diego. This excellent shrub is becoming better known each year and is a very dependable plant for general planting. It must be kept decidedly dry from July until October, for best winter results and for the life of the plant. It should never be planted on the lawn with its daily sprinkling. It requires some leaf soil, but no fertilizers.

The Naval Training Station has begun a practical planting of its extensive sandy and shore area with a collection of Tamarix, using the varieties, Plumosa, Attenuata (the Athol), Gallica, and Hispida Estevalvis. All are decidious excepting attenuata, which is an evergreen. Its first use after its importation from Persia was in the Imperial Valley, as a windbreak for the date plantations. It is one of the very best plants for sandy and alkaline situations and soon will be conspicuous on our sandy seashores. A collection of Mesembryanthemus should claim their next attention for a ground cover for sandy areas.

In contrast with the Tamarix planting is a collection of Aloes for dry locations. All the Aloes are a great success in San Diego. They bear brilliant flowers during the winter and spring ,and require the very least of care. They are easily grown and increase rapidly by means of off-shoots. The flowers of the smaller-growing sorts are excellent cut flowers for decorative effects.

Miss Florence Yoch, a landscape architect of Pasadena, writes from Spain where she went early in September, and expects to return in January.

She writes of the serious shortage of water of Madrid; of the university students playing "Futbol" (as they spell it) for the first time this past fall. The town of Avila on a side hill completely walled with 84 round towers in the wall and 9 gates.

In Toledo she describes the house of the Marquis of Toledo owned by a young Spaniard who is restoring the necessary parts and collecting choice furnishings to add to the already fine pieces. The patio with its central fountain and its lush of green growth and balconies above.

At Cordoba we have had three marvellous days: Southern Spain is the only real Spain. The garden of the Marquis of Viaus is so fine that it alone is worth the trip to Cordoba. I saw 9 of the 14 patios of this house. The Espaliered, red oranges, were so thrifty.

The Cierra de Cordoba are higher than the Hollywood mountains and I think one-half as high as Mt. Lowe. They are covered with a low scrubby growth like our California mountains and a scattering of olive groves, oak plantations, some carob and many orange orchards.

On the way down from San Jeromino I found the pastures thick with tiny white flowers, like minature narcissus, also another white bulbous flower and very small blue scilla. The driver said that in the "primavera" the ground is so covered with blue for miles that one cannot put down a hand.

On a short side trip she notes the resemblance to simple Tuscan Villas, vine covered, good, large terraces, long flower lined walks through thrifty orchards and homey flower gardens with a flare of magenta, pink, mauve, scarlet, blue, in close harmony with cheer ful discord.

Bouganvillea and gomphrena were the keynote. But it was very delightful and on one terrace a cunning little chapel tucked into the vines and flowers. There is a good deal of color in most gardens. The roses, mostly very old varieties, are very floriferous.

STRAY THOUGHTS

Zizyphus, a Generic name for a species of fruits which is receiving considerable attention from the Department of Agriculture: Bureau of Plant Industry, because of the drought resistant nature of the trees or shrubs. The word is derived from the Arabic, Zizouf; the specific name in Arabic for Zizyphus lotus.

No attempt will be made at this time to give a history of the origin and dissemination of this fruit, other than to say that its

nativity is supposed to be Syria, from whence it was introduced into China a long time ago. The patient Chinaman developed it to the size of Leghorn hen's egg, and it was from that country that our Plant Introducers got their start. The fruit, when ripe, has a tough leathery skin, of brown color, the meat a very pleasant sweet flavor. To process this fruit it is necessary to puncture the skin, then boil in syrup, then dry it. When so treated, they are equal in quality, to most varieties of dates. It bears abundantly, on twigs which drop with the fruit.

Passiflora edulis: A native of Brazil which will stand the cold of this Southland, where the frosts are not too severe. In Australia it is extensively grown for a beverage made from the fruits, and no social gathering is considered complete, without this refreshing drink. Why can't we do the same in Southern California, and save the money we spend for a drink which comes from a city in Georgia.

Thunbergia gibsonii: A native of British East Africa, does exceedingly well in this part of the coast country. The flowers are deep orange, without an "eye" which characterizes the species—Alata—known as "Black-eyed Susan". It is a perpetual bloomer, but of slow growth. It is one of the good things which is to be put on the market by one of our nurserymen in the near future.

Chrysanthemum carinatum, the old Painted Daisy, which once was known as Chrysanthemum tricolor, because of the Joseph Coat coloring of the flowers. The new double flowering variety is more like a fine strain of double Ranunculus. Go to the Harris Seed Co. for the seed. They know the Flower Seed Farm where it is grown for sale, to the trade. And now is the time to plant it. You will be enamored with its beauty.

Feeding Plants: The majority of gardeners in this state seem to think that plants are able to do their best on wind and water alone. The good Lord furnishes the wind, the water companies furnish the water, and the home makers either turn the water on the garden or hire some luckless fellow to do the job for them. The result. Sickly, unhappy looking plants, a disappointment to the gardener who does his own work; a discredit to the gardener who is hired to do the work, and a discouragement to any man who attempts such a task. Better, infinitely better, are a dozen rose bushes well cared for, than a hundred without plenty of nourishment.

Dead Leaves: Valuable as a fertilizer in the garden they are treated as though they were poison, to be gotten rid of as quickly, and as effectively as fire will do the work. If collected and worked into the soil at once; gross feeding plants will quickly assimilate them. Cannas, Crinums, Agapanthus, will devour them as a dog devours a bone. Trees and shrubbery of all sorts revel in such mulch. Even Bermuda grass, which is raked off lawns at this time of year in this state, if left to dy in the sun for a few days is par excellent material to work into any hard garden soil.

P. D. BARNHART.

FEBRUARY WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

February is usually a stormy month in San Diego, and many days of rain may be counted upon. While many Februarys have been passed with little or no rain, others have been marked by precipitation on more than half of the days in the month. The records show that when rains set in in earnest, that they last for several days, are accompanied by strong southerly winds, and, as a rule, yield generous amounts.

Cold, frosty mornings are still common, but the chances are remote for a severe freeze in the citrus districts. As in January, days with maximum temperatures over 70 degrees are frequent, and mild, pleasant weather may be expected for several consecutive days. In the number of clear and cloudy days, and the amount of sunshine, the month measures up to the preceding month very closely.

DEAN BLAKE, Meteorologist.

Walter S. Merrill

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The Jan. & Feb. Gardens

Some Little Known Plants and Flowers.

By Mary Matthews.

At this season of the year, when flowers are scarce, one of the choicest things in the garden with me is the Algerian Iris (Iris Stylosa) which commence to bloom as early as the last of September and continue into late spring. The flowers are sky blue, delicate as an orchid, slugs and snails devour them if given a chance, so they should be pulled (not cut) as soon as they begin to open. By giving a sideway pull of the stem you get it from the crown and as the flower stem is only about twelve inches this is a great advantage. This Iris is a profuse bloomer and a sun lover. While many of us are familiar with the summer blooming Buddleias, commonly known as "Butterfly Bush", of these I think Buddleia magnifica, the deep lilac, is the handsomest. There are several choice kinds that are winter bloomers, of these Buddleia Asiatica is probably the best known. This has long slender spikes of creamy white flowers, very fragrant on account of the shape of the flower growth. This is often known as the Rat Tail Buddleia, equally as good winter bloomers, but not so well known as Buddleia Davidii, a rampant grower, with delicate creamy, lavender flowers intensely fragrant. A third, not so sturdy, but well worth a trial is Buddleia Colvillei This, when grown in a protected spot, will give choice blooms, rose colored on the outside of the tube and cream within, in large pendant bunches. All of these root readily from cuttings, and the present season is a very favorable time to start cuttings of the summer bloomers. The winter blooming ones should be started just after pruning back the old growth in late spring.

Amongst herbaceous plants I have been especially interested in some of the Penstemons, different from those usually seen in our gardens (Penstemon Gloxinoides) these are Penstemon Barbatus, shell pink, and Bar Coralgem, both of them thrifty growers and good bloomers, especially "shell pink". A third, which is to be tried, is Penstemon Campanulatus. This is from Mexico and the sender says, "They seed freely, the flowers are deep pink on wiry stems about two feet long, the foliage slender light green," and an attractive plant.

Continued on page 16

THE VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

The continued cold nights followed, most of the time since Christmas, by dry cold winds and sunny days up to the present date (20th inst.) has discouraged both work and growth in the garden, and we must hope that the long promised rains with attendant growing atmosphere will soon be here, so that we may all again feel the insistant call of the garden.

In the mean time if we want to preserve the seeds and plants we have already set out we must give the extra care necessary to the present condition, and provide the necessary shelter for tender plants making a fight for their lives, and the moisture and cultivation to keep seeds and plants from standing still, bearing in mind that you will get better desults by sprinkling or irrigating in the morning or early afternoon until weather conditions are warmer.

On ground not occupied by seeds or plants do not postpone any longer a thorough spading and fertilizing so that it may be ready for planting during February. In the vegetable garden the plan of campaign is the same as recommended for last month. Continue sowing and planting all hardy vegetable seeds and plants. Asparagus roots are strictly in season now, also horseradish and rhubarb. It is possible this year to get strong subdivisions of Panama rhubarb, heretofore the roots offered in this part of the country were not strong enough to give this fine variety a fair chance. The stalks of Panama are large, of fine flavor, need less sugar and the plants have a very deep rooting system, and a much longer bearing season than other varieties and are very heavy producers.

Don't forget the strawberry patch, the Progressive everbearing is one of the best varieties for the home garden, and if properly cared for will produce an abundance of fruit from April until well into the fall. If you contemplate setting out any deciduous fruit trees, January is a good month to plant. Dig large, deep holes so that roots have plenty of room for their "natural lie", and plant an inch deeper than they were in the nursery. In filling in, use top soil first, and if ground has not got plenty of moisture, wet down pretty well before filling hole, and before leveling off, press soil down well with your feet. A little well rotted manure scattered round the tree will help conserve moisture

Continued on page 12

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EDITORIAL

This promises to be a great year to Beautify San Diego. A huge Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has split itself into a number of small Committee, each pledged to further some particular part of a pleasantly comprehensive and ambitious program; the San Diego Club has inaugurated a Garden Day to be an annual stimulus to flower culture; the Naval Training Station continues its amazing improvement of the grounds at Loma Portal and the Floral Association had a bumper attendance at its first meeting of the year. If this combination does not bring rain, it ought to.

We have fought a desire to say something on the water question and realize our restraint, though well meant, was foolish because every one else has had their say, two or three times. It has been queer to watch the working of the law of correspondence. At the beginning of the rainy season, scheduled for a wet one, all of us wanted to have our say as to how and where we should catch that rain and what we should do with it afterwards. Two or three mild falls arrived in due season and the clamor increased, then week by week a deficiency crept up and the noise went down, till today most of us are willing to let any one have the water if it would only drop. That is only a lull, however, give us a rain and again the chorus of experts will insist upon saving the situation, each in his own way. If there be such an one as an inexpert, let him take comfort in the knowledge that in storage now is several years' supply. A phase of the situation which has not been discussed and cussed ad nauseam, is wherein lies the value of this water. It brings in a revenue only when used, to keep reservoirs full is a splendid gesture, but it does not pay interest on bonds, and it would seem that until the time arrives when there is used and paid for more water than we now have, the cost of further development must all be met by direct taxation. Along with water development must march the use of water, and that would seem to mean a price for water at which it can be economically used.

Another point generally overlooked, is that a heavy rainfall is of little avail to full reservoirs, and even after one of the dryest spells in the history of the State all of our reservoirs would overflow with a normal rainfall for this season. Looking at this water question as water merchants, our stock is still ahead of our custom.

It would be absurd not to recognize that water is the vital issue for every community in Southern California, that it is so, is abundantly proved by the fact that most of them are fighting about it right now and possibly supreme authority will have some day to step in and apportion what there is of it.

A tremendous influx of new citizens is predicted, some claim that most of it was almost started, when the unscrupulous the other side of the Rockies started a campaign of prevarication and stopped it, but a million dollars is being raised to go the prevaricators one better, and no doubt quite a lot of folks will join us, most of these come for a climate that is not too wet, having had a darned sight too much moisture at their former address, and they need have no fear of going thirsty here, they or their household, or their garden. When we reach the point of a true economic use of water, a lot that is now used without any true compensation but the pleasure of seeing it run, can be conserved and then there is always the Ocean which may be made to provide soft drinks. Meantime if from a multitude of counsellors wisdom comes, our water situation is safe, let us pray for rain.

We have been threatened with a challenge on account of our advocacy of a California Garden for California, which is to take the form of "Why don't we plant one ourselves?" We are so glad some one has noticed what we have been shouting that we accept the challenge before it is made. We don't because we have one of the ordinary jumbles, planted when we were everything but Californian and under the influence of an hundred advisers little better qualified, and have not the means to do it all over. From our heart we say, We wish we had. Further we hope to sell our garden and prospective buyers in the jumble

class are so much more numerous than Simon Pure Californians.

It is astounding how literal most of us are in spite of Jeff and Mutt, Abe Kabibble and Casper and Toots. We have been solemnly warned several times, that we should not joke about business, and know alas from experience that it is no joke, but we would like to think that garden matters may be approached without this deadly seriousness, or at least that the deadly might be left off. There is really no excuse for a garden except for enjoyment, its dividends are paid in pleasure and perhaps that is why so many don't care for the garden, they have not been getting dividends, and so in advocating a California Garden there has been and is now no intention of anything except strong suggestion, and we go further by affirming that a slavish adherence to California planting excluding all else, would be stupid unless desired by the planter before all else. We would not plant our own garden exclusively to California things, only lay the foundation with them, so that there at least we could stay away a week end, assured that it would still be there when we came back.

Our main aim in this matter, is to call attention to our native growths for garden uses, they are planted more in Europe than at home, and to repeat that one of the greatest landscape artists in the country almost wept with admiration for our Rhus integrifolia when he saw it on our few unraped slopes, selfcontained, green and happy, miles from any hose or cultivator. The irony of the situation lies in the fact, that our natives are unpopular because they die if watered through the summer, so that their chief merit has been their undoing.

BULB SHOW, MARCH 3RD, 1925

On the first Tuesday in March The Floral Association will hold its annual Bulb Show in the Association building. This exhibit has been held now for several seaosns and there is an increased interest taken in each one held. This one we want to make an extra good one so each member, also any one not a member, is urged to take care of and bring any bulbous subjects they may have to perfection at that time. It is not necessary to show a quantity of a thing; often one good specimen with good foliage and good quality of flower and length of stem is better than a bunch crowded together. Everything needed in the way of containers, etc., will be supplied; persons exhibiting in baskets can bring their own, but where a collection is shown uniformity in containers gives best results.

Mrs. Greer will be in charge of arrangements, and will give all the help necessary to display to advantage. Ribbons will be awarded in three classes: Best general collection of the bulb flowers; best display of unusual bulb flowers; best basket, bowl or vase—in this last greenery other than their own will be allowed, such as ferns, asparagus fern or other delicate subjects, in the others. Flowers must be shown with their own foliage. Notes as regards cutting, displaying, etc., next month.

MRS. MARY A. GREER,
MISS MARY MATTHEWS,
Committee in Charge.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS FOR 1925

Feb. 3—Outdoor meeting, 2 to 4 p. m. at Vista Nursery, with Mrs. Alex Reynolds, Jr., Sixth avenue, Chula Vista. Water Gardens and Rockeries. Autos to connect with street car.

Feb. 17—Regular monthly meeting at Floral Home, 7:30 p. m. Subject, "Acacias".

March 10—Spring Bulb Show at Floral Home 2 to 5 p. m. Specimens received in the morning from 9:30. Chairman Miss Mary Matthews, phone H. C. 3330-W.

March 24—Regular meeting at Floral Home, 7:30. Subject, "Roses and Spring Show."

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Thank you for your patronage and also for reading and digesting this. Owing to the fact that California Garden, with the sole exception of the printing, is produced entirely by volunteer effort, it cannot function with that meticulous precision that marks similar commercial efforts. Its contributors have to be cajoled, they cannot be coerced, so the date of issuance is always open to speculation. It would be considered, by the harassed editor, as evidence of blessed restraint, if subscribers would consider this and not suspect that he had embezzled their dollars if the magazine limped a bit in coming. Come it will, sooner or later, but it is not advised to dwell on the "sooner" in this promise. Kindly notice that no date of issuance is printed in the magazine, the editor dare not do it.

LIBRARY NOTES

All the horticultural publications of the current month, also several 1925 catalogues, will be found on the Library table. No one should fail to read the article, "Perennials in the Garden", by Furman Lloyd Millford, in the Southern Florist, Dec. 26th, Jan. 9th. It is a part of the Bulletin prepared by the Department of Agriculture entitled, "' ? Perennials." It is for the general gardens and is full of good items for all who are interested in this subject. The Bulletin in full

has been asked for, for the benefit of those who visit the Library, and will be on the table before long.

The Flower Grower, for January, gives an article by J. Marion Shull that might well be taken into consideration. It is entitled, "Aspirin Injurious to Cut Flowers", and gives reasons why Aspirin is not beneficial to flowers, although we have seen much in favor of it in various publications. In conclusion it says: "From the foregoing notes it will be seen that however useful and beneficial Aspirin may be in human pathology, it is useless to rely on it for reviving or prolonging of cut flowers in the house." There is also a good article on Rock Gardens in the Home Grounds, to be found in "Garden Illustrated, London". This magazine also always has numerous suggestions as regards the newer and also suitable subjects for the garden. All the periodicals are full of useful suggestions. Come and read them.

LIBRARIAN.

ANOTHER ONE FOR SLUGS

It does not seem to be generally known that powdered alum will effect the destruction, without the least injury to the plants, of snails and slugs, and that once these come in contact with it there is no chance of their escaping, except to die. They cannot slough it off, as they can do salt and soot. A strong solution, made by dissolving a lump of the material in boiling water, and applying it as hot as possible, so that the steam may find its way into all the crevices and air spaces, is invaluable for exterminating them from refuse heaps and other places where they hibernate and breed. Adults and eggs are effectively destroyed by this means.—From Popular Gardening (England).

SOWING SMALL SEEDS

One need not do without many fine plants that seem beyond their means because of their price, or because they do not chance to live where they can procure them.

Some Gloxinia and Begonia seeds were once sent me and I determined to try my hand with them, and succeeded so well, I am sending the story of my success to encourage others.

Begonias

For the Begonia I chose a box about the size of a cigar box, only somewhat deeper; filled it two-thirds full of good garden soil; then got fine sandy wood soil from under an old oak; and sifted this through an old meal sieve; filled the box to within one-half inch of the top; firmed it down slightly with my hand; watered it well; and left it until the soil was right for planting. I then marked tiny rows one inch apart, and sowed the dust-like seed in them, pressed them in the soil with my fingers very gently, so as not to cover them too much. I covered the box with old thin white muslin, and set them in a sunny window; watering them by sprinkling gently through the muslin.

In about ten days the tiny plants began to grow, and how they did grow. In a few days I had to make ready to transplant them. I took a broad box,—shallow—you might term it a flat—and filled with the same soil. Then picking out the tiny plants with a hairpin,—woman's ever ready instrument,—I placed one every two inches, in rows two inches apart, carefully firming the earth around the fine thread-like roots with my fingers; and they grew as if they realized what I was doing for them and were anxious to repay me.

As they were mixed varieties it was interest ing to watch the unfolding and development of the various formed and colored foliage.

Gloxinias

For the Gloxinias I used a large flower pot, and used the same soil and methods as with the Begonias, though I sometimes set the pot in a vessel of quite warm water; as the pots being porous absorbed much water from the soil. I transplanted them the same way, and they grew beautifully. Indeed they were beautiful from the time their second leaves began to form; with their silvery sheen and lovely shades of green.

But, alas! Like so many other of my dreams, I could not bring this one of raising them to their blooming fulfillment; as there was no place where I could keep them from freezing; so I finally disposed of them. But I had the pleasure of proving that it is very easy, and also a pleasure to raise those lovely plants from seed.

Sowing Fine Seeds

For sowing fine seeds of plants for the garden, such as Snapdragons, and even Pansies, I use boxes; and after planting, I cover with the muslin and keep this on till seeds had well germinated. Then when storms, or even sudden showers, threatened, I covered them with pieces of boards, or any suitable material to keep the rain from pelting my little plant babies to death.

I usually covered them every night lest sudden showers might ruin them. Before I did this I used to lose many tneder young plants, especially Snapdragons. So I proved the truth of the saying: "Where there is a will, there is a way." And it is not always necessary to have hot beds and cold frames, etc., in order to raise our tender and desirable plants.—Alice R. Corson, in Flower Grower.

VIOLETS AND HEATHER

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

On the evening of Tuesday, January twentieth the Floral Association held its semi-annual meeting in the Floral Building in Balboa Park. The meeting was very well attended, and those present were well repaid for their efforts to be present. For it was an unusually interesting program that was presented.

Mr. Frederick McMurray, of Coronado, gave several charming selections on the viola, playing unaccompanied, with much more warmth and feeling than one expects from a solo stringed instrument. Following the music came talks on Violet Culture, by Mr. Hansbrough, of El Cajon Avenue, and on Primroses and Heathers, by Miss Kate Sessions.

Mr. Hansbrough, who felt called upon to give up his business of electrical engineer in order to be able to devote all his time to his hobby of flower-growing, has been engaged for several years in growing violets on a commercial scale on the east side of the city, and for the first time, perhaps, in the history of the association, its members have had the privilege of hearing authentic, practical information on the proper method of handling this most difficult flower.

Mr. Hansbrough admits that San Diego climate fails lamentably when it comes to violet culture; yet he does claim that, with the right treatment, as good violets can be grown here as anywhere in the world. He has grown them larger than silver dollars, and with stems seventeen inches long; and that should satisfy anybody. These huge violets cannot be grown here commercially, as the market in California is not for such expensive flowers, but some day he expects to grow them and ship them to New York by aerial express.

For growing good, medium-sized flowers, he gives the following suggestions: Do not try to grow them in the shade. An east exposure is the best, and the west is nearly as good, and even a full southern exposure is better than the north. Our winter weather being variable, from year to year, it is hard to say where they will do best in any given year. This year being cold, Mr. Hansbrough says that his violets have done better on the warm sides of his canyons; but last year, when we had no real cold weather, his best results were obtained from the plantings on the more shady side.

After choosing the location, the ground must be well prepared for planting. Plow or spade and harrow thoroughly, until the soil is very fine and light, and add leaf mold very generously, but no other fertilizer at this or at any other time. The acidity of the leaf mold is all the stimulation that is needed. Dig up old plants and turn them over, in order to select the proper young plants. These are the small crowns with numerous white fibrous roots, and no others should be used. Plant these in dry ground, carefully separating the roots, about eighteen inches apart, and after firming them down well, immediately water them thoroughly. This planting should be done during the latter part of March, and from planting on, the ground should never be allowed to get dry. The top two inches must always be damp until after the picking season is over, otherwise the mortality rate will be very high. After planting do not cultivate for a month or even a little longer, even if the crop of weeds is apparently pre-empting the premises. The tiny fibrous roots must have time to get established in the soil, undisturbed by hoe or weeder. By the latter part of April, the beds may be cleaned of weeds, and from then on they should be kept carefully cultivated. Continue watering and cultivating religiously, and bp October first the blooming season should begin. The first flowers are small, and the stems are short, but as the season advances thep improve, and about February first, when the flowering season is at its height, they are the best. The season should continue until April first, provided that the moisture is always present in the ground, that the ground is kept well cultivated between the plants, and that the blooms are all picked off. For the violet, like the sweet pea and the pansy, will stop blooming if it is allowed to make seed. During the blooming season the leaf growth gradually gets poorer and shabbier; for leaves only grow when the flowers are not being produced. If you want leaves, grow a few plants in complete shade, and leaves, not blooms, are what you will get.

When the blooming season is done, let the plants rest, and give very little water until about August fifteenth. Then commence the watering and cultivation, and by October first a new blooming season will begin, with more and finer flowers than was the case with the new plants. The violet bed may be continued year after year, without resetting, provided that every runner is cut off as soon as it appears. Just as soon as you allow runners to grow and root in, the strength of the parent plant is diminished, and you will soon have to dig up your bed and start anew. And this should be avoided as much as possible, for the only trouble, really, in growing violets in San Diego is in getting the young plants to survive the uncongenially dry atmosphere the first year.

Of the pests to combat, the worst is red

spider. This can be kept down by moisture, and, where possible, by spraying the under sides of the leaves, preferably with salt water, using a solution about as strong as ordinary sea water. Spotted leaf, if taken in hand in time, can be controlled by one good application of Bordeaux Mixture.

Those who are willing to spend the money necessary, may secure blooms that would take prizes in an English flower show. Build a lath house in the open, prepare your beds with eighteen inches of pure mountain leaf mold, and follow the previous directions for planting. The lath house should have the best of drainage, and it should have an overhead oscillating sprinkling system, which will give the very finest spray possible. Run this finest of fine mist every day except during the resting season from ten o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, and your flowers will be all that can be desired.

Mr. Hansbrough added a hint on keeping violets. When they have been cut and worn as a corsage bouquet, and are brought home limp and apparently ruined, place them in an airtight receptacle that contains two inches of water. Some hours later they will be found as fresh, seemingly, as newly picked flowers.

Miss Sessions followed with a delightful talk on Primroses and Heathers. The Primrose does best under practically the same conditions as Mr. Hansbrough outlined for the violet, but some varieties are much less fussy in their demands, and will grow practically anywhere. The primula polyanthus is practically a failure here unless given the elaborate care that violets need for their most perfect blooming. Primula chinensis, the popular potted primrose of the florists' shops, do better and may be planted in San Diego in shady gardens, with assurance of fair blooms and a chance of living from year to year. The Primula obconica does still better in our climate, is a lovely plant, and was at one time very popular, in gardens were they could have considerable shade. But the rumor went about that they were poisonous, and for that reason are now not much seen. Miss Sessions has handled a great many and has never been poisoned, but she cannot vouch for the fact that they are or are not dangerous.

She regards as most important and valuable among the primulas the latest comer, primula malecoides, the tiny blossomed light lavender primrose so much used now in borders. It will grow in sun or shade, (it does best in partial shade, or on an east side) with much water or little, although it must have some. It seeds itself most generously, and from one plant this year you may have a hundred next. It should have a generous allotment of space in every garden in the city.

Of the heathers, the earliest to be introduced to San Diego was the Erica Mediterranea, fairly tall-growing with purple bloom. This was not successful at first, probably due to improper treatment, and is now little seen in the city. The next to appear was the Erica melanthera, probably the most satisfactory of all. This is the Christmas Heather, coming into bloom before the holidays and lasting until February first. It grows tall, sometimes to nine or ten feet, and is a wonderful sight when in bloom.

Miss Sessions recommends the following varieties, out of hundreds known to the botanists, as best for San Diego: Melanthera (noted above), regerminans—a purplish everbloomer, Charlesiana—an almost white everbloomer with tubular flowers, Blanda—with lovely bright pink flowers and most attractive foliage, Condonodes—the Easter Heather, Persoluta, alba and rosea—a very popular variety in either the pink or white, and Mediterranean hybrid—a low border plant that becomes a mass of purple bloom.

Our dry atmosphere does not permit the growing of Scotch or English Heathers here, but those from South Africa, where the climate is very similar to ours, thrive as well perhaps as any plant that has been introduced to this section.

The secret of growing heathers is in letting them severely alone after putting them into the proper ground. Have a soil made up of light loam, plenty of leaf mold, and a little sand, with perhaps just a dash of bone meal. Be sure that there is good drainage underneath,—for they do not like wet feet. You may have the bed on the north, south, east or west, they will grow anywhere, but they must be away from other plants and away, most of all, from the lawn. For they do not like much water, after they are established, and they do not like, and will not stand for, manure. And never cultivate around the plants, for their roots are a mass of tiny fibres that grow close to the surface, and they must not be disturbed. Water rather sparingly during the growing season, and very sparingly during the rest of the year. Prune vigorously during the flowering season,—and there is nothing finer for cut flowers, for they keep almost indefinitely in the house, even without water,—so do not be afraid to pick all you want for your own home and for your friends. They will grow bigger and better than ever the next year.

Of her long list of favorite flowers, I feel sure that Miss Sessions puts heathers at the top, and she brought large bunches which were distributed among those who were fortunate enough to be present to hear her most interesting talk.

After the meeting was adjourned, coffee and cakes were served, and every one went away feeling that in the future no more Floral meetings must be missed, at any cost.

W. S. MERRILL, Secretary.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

BEGONIA CHAT

ADVICE IN SEED CULTURE

By Alfred D. Robinson.

In response to my plaintive cry for early catalogues by Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd, three have been sent me, one from Carlsbad and two from distant Santa Clara. From these most interesting books, I have found a possible solution of the difficulty as to the identity of Nitida, which troubled me in a former number, I quote verbatim from the 1910 edition: Odorata Rosea or NITIDA similar to Odorata Alba but with thicker and more glossy leaves. The beautiful clusters of flowers stand out above the foliage. Buds are bright pink; and the flowers are, when opened, white inside and pink outside". This is near enough to Bailey's description of Nitida, and till another authority speaks I shall so call it, but now my charming little variety with fine white flowers blushed on the outside and much smaller leaves, rather crinkled, growing about two feet, is left nameless, however, if enough catalogues come in, I shall doubtless find a title to suit. Another variety named Charles Roocker is thus described, "Very fine graceful plant with rather small shining leaves and bearing numerous graceful drooping clusters of bright scarlet flowers always in bloom." This is another of my orphans evidently, a small grower resembling Fuchsioides but with larger leaves. The third find is a name for what I have been calling the crinkly leaved spreading small grower with white flowers, this Mrs. Shepherd knew as Smithii or White Gem.

I feel that I must leave this fascinating historical pursuit for this month, to talk about Begonia and lath house work. So far we have had a tourist and realtors year the maximum of good weather with the minimum of rain. It has been a problem to know how to treat the lath house folks, but so far I have come out very well. Twice already I have run the sprinkler all over the house, leaving it for three or four hours in a place, and am at it for the third time. It will do no harm if the good rains promised by the City Council (or so I read it in the Daily paper) materialize, and it will be a life saver if they don't. Just a hand sprinkling under present conditions is not only useless but an insult. I don't advocate any work of general renovation for at least a month. Dormancy spells safety and when a Begonia is tickled it tries to laugh or grow which is the same thing. The exception is of course the early bloomers, Verschafelti especially must be given plenty of moisture and be staked, its buds are already showing color as are those of Carolinaefolia and Feastii, Manicata, Rubella and that class will follow along very soon.

It is not the time to put in cuttings either of branch or leaf. I tried a lot of Rex leaves the past month with bottom heat but the result clearly indicated their chagrin at the attempt. However, seed may and should be sown if the sower is willing to take a little trouble, so I propose for the steenth time to briefly outline the technic which has been successful with me and describe an amateur heating plant that is all that I gleaned from twenty years devotion to the chicken business.

Begonia seed is small, it could be easily mistaken for rust particles, however, fresh seed is remarkably fertile and if one sprouts, all of them are likely to. The package you buy will probably make you cuss the seller as a robber because the quantity is so minute. Believe me it errs on the other side, you will have too much. It is impossible to scatter this seed by itself over enough surface, so it is mixed with several times its bulk of fine sifted sand or loam, I prefer sand it anchors the seed. The mixture should be put on a creased piece of stiff paper and sifted carefully on the top of the prepared soil, not covered with soil. This soil is best finely sifted leaf mould pressed down firmly and scalded. A clay seed pan or a small box with a hole in the bottom for drainage, a piece of window screen over the hole is admirable. When planted cover with glass and keep in the dark till sprouted in a temperature of sixty to seventy, the nearer the latter the quicker the sprouting. Water from below by soaking.

I have done all my starting for years in an ordinary oatsprouter, such as every chicken crank buys, and only a few use afterwards. However, this year, also out of my chicken obsession, I have a better apparatus for it is not so steamy. Through the center of my glass house, which is a leanto to the garage and has the apearance of constant apology to the auto, there is a two foot bench with sand which will root Rexes or anything else well after May, but is a cold, clammy spot for five or six months before that. Two months ago, goaded by the desperate plight of hundreds of little Rex seedlings I decided to go after the cold feet of that bench and the thought

of the broders I tended for years flashed up like an inspiration. I got some sheet iron and taking about two feet I bowed it with a piece of bailing wire (I am thus explicit about material to show you can do it from almost any tin can dump) and hung it below the bench, three of them spaced about six feet apart, then I put a half inch by eight wooden apron all round the bench, the sheet iron was only half this depth at the greatest bow, and under the center of each iron I placed an ordinary No. 2 brooder coal oil lamp and the three of them run twenty-four hours for eight cents. Over the bench there is a light frame rising from six inches to a foot covered by sash picked up cheap, the six light kind. In this tiny seedlings are flourishing as if it were summer. Now any one can figure how this scheme can be modified for a small affair to be run in a house or protected porch but a few pointers yet. All the watering in the glass house for the past two months (and will be for three to come) has been done with warm water. How warm you will say, I don't think the degree matters so long as it feels warm to the hand and is not hot. I believe more than half former winters trouble has been from using cold water. I take a pail of good warm water into the glass house then I fill the watering can half full from it, draw the rest from the faucet and distribute it. I don't bother as I said before about the exact degree, I just avoid chill or scalding and for those points try it on myself. I always water in the morning.

Folks who have inspeced my heating system all express a perfect horror of lamps, and ask if I am not afraid of fire from them, and I answer, Yes that is what makes them safe. The wick is the essence of the lamp and I never read a direction for its care that was not essentially wrong. Most of these tell one to remove the char with a burnt match or the finger, either operation jams the char down into the wick and starts a cake which means smoking. I did this way for twenty years and so doing burnt up several brooders, hundreds of chickens, and blistered my lips with hot words, then a realization of the burnt match process arrived and I tried an old toothbrush and my troubles and incidentally those of the chickens were over, the stiff bristles chased out all the burnt material, burnished the metal and left practically a new wick and since then no smoking lamps, no funeral chicken pyres and no swear words. By the way the lamp chimney should be of metal and the top be not more than two inches from the sheet iron. After filling and relighting lamps turn rather low and go and readjust in an hour, this is a safeguard that should not be omitted.

Tubers of Begonias can be started now for early blooming, put them in sand half covered and give bottom heat or set them in a sunny window with a shade over the box and keep moist. Don't forget that the business end of the tuber is the other one. Put the cup shape up.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Con'd from Pge. 5

and gradually fertilize tree. Deciduous trees should be cut back to 3 or 4 feet and straggling or broken roots pruned off.

In the flower garden it is taken for granted that the ground has already been well worked and fertilized, and that the surface has been fined down by cultivating and raking, so that there is a good seed bed four or five inches deep on top of the ground that has been previously spaded to a good depth. Preparation of this nature is highly necessary to the best success of seeds and plants. When fertilizing has been neglected, a little bone meal along the rows, followed by a light mulching of pulverized Penn fertilizer, a product of the Chula Vista Cotton Seed Plant, after it has been fed to cattle. This fertilizer is weedless, runs seventy per cent humus, shows a high analysis in plant foods and can be bought by the sack. A little of this on the surface of the ground, gradually worked in during the process of irrigation and cultivation, makes an ideal supplementary fertilizer.

While many annuals can now be sown in the places where they are to remain, if the ground is not ready or occupied by other things, a smaller piece of ground can be prepared as a seed bed in a picked spot in the garden, where most or all of our plants can be started and afterwards transplanted where they are to remain. Some leaf mold and sand worked into the surface of the seed bed, or in case you use seed boxes, one-third leaf mold, one-third sand and one-third good, fine garden soil is the best mixture for growing your seedlings. Be sure to have surface of soil very fine and just barely cover seeds, having ground moist enough so that it works easily. It is very important to keep moisture just right to promote healthy growth and to give protection from the sun when too hot.

The following seeds can be planted: Acrolinium, Alyssium, Antirrhinum (snapdragon) Calendula, Calliopsis, Candytuff, Centaurea, Clarkia, Larkspur, Lupin, Mignonette, Poppies and Sweet Peas.

To those who do not want to bother with seeds the following plants can be bought ready to set out: Snapdragon, Canterbury Bells, Carnations, Foxglove, Pansies, Penstemon, Shasta Daisies, Stocks, Gaillardias, etc. Look after your bulbous plants that are now growing, keeping them well cultivated and watered. Make another planting of Anemones and Ranunculus bulbs for later flower-

ing, the first named will bloom well into June if taken care of and they are both wonderful cut flowers.

Plant bulbs of Tuberose, double dwarf Pearl, and Aurantum, Rubrum and Tigrinum lilies. These should be planted in rich, well drained soil and about 8 inches deep. Be on the lookout for snails and remember that Calcium Arsenate and Bran will get them.

LETTER FROM ITALY

Continued from December

Just before we leave the coast and turn toward Sorrento we pass the little island Galli—the Isle of the Sirens, that Homer has made famous. The drive through the fertile Sorrento plain is charming, filled every inch with oranges and the grape and I come for the first time to the Cocumello Hotel, having heard of its beautiful gardens. I found it comfortable and inexpensive, the gardens large and fonderful. Two long wide paths covered with pergolas and lined with rose bushes, lead down to the sea. With the view of Naples and Vesuvius as the objective point. Always here a pergola has "raison d'etre" an objective point.

Along these paths a quarter of a mile long drip from the pergolas exquisite pink, white and yellow roses. The fragrance and beauty of it you can imagine. From the paths the garden stretches out into many different forms—some for flower beds—some for trees —delightful places to rest in and have tea— or to breakfast in. Anything served here is like nectar. One walks on air in this garden. I do not know a more beautiful place for a long stay. At the sea edge is a deep terrace— given over to lounging chairs and tables, everything ready for tea and to enjoy the fine view. Steamers do no dock here nor at Capri. And now we are off for Capri. We must take the small boats from the steamers, and it is a trying experience to any but the young and agile, and we are spending three wonderful days at Ana Capri, it's a land to dream of even after one's seeing it. Great love of children and old people, who are looked up to and consulted upon every important occasion. Considered wells of wisdom and treated accordingly. You may think I have used too many adjectives but come yourself with seeing eyes and perhaps you may use more.

Now we have come up to Rome, an interesting little journey full of interesting talk in our compartmnt—one Italian, a German, a French woman, we two Americans and an Italian official. We all talked—you can never tire an European out with conversations light and neighborly. And now I leave you looking forward, while having the best of times, to get back to California, my garden and my friends.

GERTRUDE EVANS.

Begonia Seed

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BEDDERS SEASHELL in three colors, PRIMA DONNA selected, and the scalloped leafed scandent sort.

A list is now ready and yours for the asking.

Send a package back to your Eastern friends, there is no danger of their duplicating it.

Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

POINT LOMA, CALIF.

Alfred D. Robinson, Prop.

LETTER FROM ENGLAND

80 Osborne Road
West Hartlepool England.

To the Readers of "California Garden."

In looking over the back copies of "California Garden" I find that it is over 13 years since I first made your acquaintance and I can assure you, those years have been very happy ones indeed. Many pleasant episodes have happened, the memory of which will never fade while life lasts. I am very pleased to see the old spirit of "help one another", that existed so many years ago, still prevails and I have no fear of the future. We have had a very wet summer and autumn, I never remember such a year. In this north country we get so much cold weather with it that we lose so many things in our gardens every winter, that would have survived had it only been drier. We had a fairly good time, the last two weeks in September, which allowed the outside chrysanthemums to get nicely into bloom and very fine they were, but alas, before their beauty had been fully enjoyed they were drenched with rain and spoilt. Dahlias have only done very moderately, and a lot of tubers will be useless. Roses have done fairly well, that grand one, "Los Angeles", being as good as any. Vegetables have done well, but potatoes very badly, and will be a scarce and dear article with us this winter. Already they are asking 5s. 6d. and s6 a stone (14 lbs) for seed potatoes. I was very much interested in reading the account of Mr. Morley's trip to England, etc., because I have been to nearly all the places mentioned and it was like seeing them all again, whilst reading his account. How I should like to contribute something to that splendid library you have started. So commencing the first week in the new year I will send you a copy of the best gardening paper in England every week, "Popular Gardening", and hope it will meet with your approval. I will also send odd copies of "Gardening Illustrated", but cannot guarantee these every week as I do not take it myself, but they are sent in by a friend. Now I think I will have to close up. It's supper time, and outside the fog is as thick as a hedge. It seems to get right in to the house, and makes one think the best place is upstairs in "Blanket land".

In closing I sincerely wish you all the best of health, happiness and prosperity during 1925.

Yours truly, W. C. KING.

Time glides on and the years fly past
And another year is with us
And tho our hands we cannot clasp,
In a vigorous shake in friendship's grasp,
This note does bear my wishes true
That new year joys abound for you.

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Spring Work in the Water Garden

February is perhaps the best month to plan for the coming season's display. Very soon the dormant rhizomes will be sending out fresh new leaves to start the plant on a fresh cycle of growth. In the autumn the hardy water lilies formed a rosette of saginttate submerged leaves, bronzy-red in color. The tropical varieties retreated within an armoured tuber. Now, as the temperature of the water rises, the hardy lilies unroll their tender pads while succulent white roots appear from cushions near the base of the petioles. Not until sometime in May can we reasonably expect the tropical varieties to show signs of growth. In very sheltered spots, however, growth may continue throughout the winter. I have had J. H. Bullard and Pennsylvania in flower in February, and we are none too sheltered from the ocean winds here in Long Beach. Hynes, by the way being a suburb of the above city. Gracilis varieties were still in flowed at the Armour place in Santa Barbara on the first of the year.

As growth commences the hardy varieties can be most advantageously moved, or when need arises, divided. At this time they are quick to take hold as last year's roots serve principally to anchor the rhizomes in the soil, the younger roots functioning in nutrition. Using a spade a ball of earth containing the plant may be lifted, cutting the older part of the rhizome off to about eight inches from the growing point. This older portion, if it has off-shoots, may be reset, the shoots soon developing into thirfty young plants. In resetting care should be taken that the growing point is not buried too deeply.

One is often asked what is best for the boxes, many believing pond muck to be essential. Nothing is further from the truth. Use whatever soil you have in the garden, enriching it well with manure, particularly if it is sandy in character. Water plants are voracious feeders. If the manure is too fresh place a two inch layer in the bottom of the box and place the soil on top, being sure not to mix. We use this method successfully in our own pools. In applying fertilizers to water lilies it should be remembered that they are very sensitive to burning and only the

GLAD TIDINGS

That it isn't too late yet to send a collection of Glad. Bulbs to your friends in the north, east or wherever they may be. I pack them frost proof and pay charges.

Have you planted your January Glad. Bulbs yet? Are you ready to put your February Glad. Bulbs in?

Though the nights are cold the Glad. Bulbs make good strong root systems down there in the dark and when warmer nights come the top growth springs up so fast that there is a bloom almost before you realize it.

If you haven't yet received one of my catalogues, a postal will bring one. Dahlia as well as Glad. prices and descriptions are given and it will be soon time to get your Dahlias in, so begin making your preparations.

Remember with each order of bulbs or roots I furnish complete planting directions.

Ralph F. Cushman

GROWER OF

EARLY MATURED SUN-CURED GLADIOLI AND DAHLIAS.

BOX 5-A *Point Loma, California*

milder types, such as bone-meal, may be safely used. In fact I have killed large, flowering specimens of night bloomers with a single handful of bone-meal.

There are many other aquatics with the general habit of true water lilies that will need attention now. Their culture is quite like that of their more regal sisters. While no particular troubles will ensue from treating them all alike yet the grower who studies their finer points will treat each a little differently. The Water Poppy should be severely thinned, as it is a strong grower and inclined to crowd its weaker opponents. It should be remembered in summer thinning that the floating stolons alone bear flowers. The mother crowns expend their energy in producing these strawberry-like runners. The Water Snowflake will profit by having a handful or so of fresh earth spread on top as it does not appreciate being disturbed. The dainty, ephemeral flowers its bears are exquisite. All during the fall and winter the Water Hawthorn has been producing an endless succession of its curious and beautiful V-shaped, hawthorn-scented flowers. It should not be disturbed until growth recommences in late summer when the water becomes cool. It has a thick, white, rhizome the size of one's thumb, that goes on growing from year to year. My plants have flowered right through the cold snap, flowers and foliage being solidly frozen in the ice and yet remaining undamaged. The draggled stem of the Purple Water Hyacinth (Eichornia azurea), will be sprouting with flat strap-shaped juvenile leaves each successive leaf becoming more like the mature summer foliage. Each sprout if left alone may later be set out as a new individual.

Attention should also be given to such subjects as Porcupine Grass, Thalia and the Water Iris. They will all likely need new soil and a general overhauling. It is sometimes easier to cut them up with a saw rather than a spade as the roots are very tough. As they increase rapidly it may be wise to thin the clumps discarding the surplus. A few plants well grown giving a far better display than crowded and ill nourished colonies. This class of aquatics do best when the boxes are brought up to near the water level. They naturally grow along the edges of lakes or in marshes in shallow water seldom encroaching on the deeper portion. The Iris in particular are very beautiful and certainly pay for their keep. Among them is the only red Iris, a species from the Southern States with fulvous red flowers (Iris fulva).

At this time of the year one may safely drain the pool without fear of injury to the plants. A wet sack or a shovelful of soil flung over the crowns is all the protection needed. Of course it would be unwise to leave the water off for much more than a week even now.

Cleaning the pool consists chiefly in removing the accumulation of mud and litter on the bottom. As a fertilizer for the garden this mud is excellent. All debris should be thoroughly cleaned out and the cement hosed down. Any boxes in need of repair should be gone over now and strengthened with cleats on the inside of the corners. Be sure that the boxes designed for lilies contain at least three cubic feet of soil for each plant. For specimen plants six to ten cubic feet will be needed.

HARRY JOHNSON.

SOME LITTLE KNOWN PLANTS

Continued from page 5

An old plant, native of Siberia, now seen in gardens all over the country (except San Diego) is Nepeta mussini. One grower says of it: Its flower Racemes are about 18 inches in length, thickly set with small lavender blooms, very useful for cutting for the house. Its chief merit is its long period of bloom, continuing in bloom from early summer into fall. It is easily increased by division and can be transplanted even when in full flower if taken with a good ball of earth and freely watered.

Two good things we should all have in our gardens, both from China, and introduced by Mr. Wilson, are Artemesia Lactiflora, this is one of the mugworts of which we have examples in our wild flora "Old Man", etc., very much like an astilbe in appearance with three to four foot stems of scented creamy flowers in late summer and fall. Second is Thalictrum dipterocarpum, a meadow rice from China; flowers rosy mauve in long branching sprays, very decorative in the house.

Amongst bulbs, always admired when seen, but not commonly grown, is Vallota purpurea, the Scarborough lily. This is one of the cape bulbs that is always popular whenever grown, but considered difficult by most. A grower says the main point is to let the bulbs become well established. They resent disturbance and take a long time to recover from division or repotting and that during the time of rest the bulbs should never be entirely dry. During the growing season ample supplies of nourishment must be provided during the resting period they ought to be given full light, for it is to be observed that plants so treated give the best and most vividly colored blooms. These few things that I have mentioned are only a few among the many that are being introduced or restored to our gardens—and are all subjects that with care and attention can be grown in this favored locality.

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